

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #69-13 Building Date: N.A.

Building Name: Magruder Spring

Location: Magruder Spring Park, east of Cheverly Avenue, north of
Columbia Park Road

Public/Park/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

The Magruder Spring is located east of Cheverly Avenue, and north of Columbia Park Road, on town-owned park land. It is located at the base of the hillside which was built up to support Cheverly Avenue. Several mature trees are growing in the bank on the north, west and south sides of the spring, including a tree protruding directly above it. The spring has been surrounded by a cylindrical concrete basin covered by a flat concrete top, at least since 1924 when it is depicted in a photograph. At the present time a drainage channel flows away from the spring to the north-east, toward Beaver Dam Branch. A grassy clearing in the level area on the east side of the spring contains a park bench.

Significance

The Magruder Spring is significant for its reoccurring importance in the evolving history of this area of Prince George's County bordering on the northeastern boundary of the District of Columbia. The spring functioned as the water source for Mt. Hope, P.G. #69-11, an antebellum tobacco plantation located in what is now the Town of Cheverly. The plantation house and outbuildings still stand and are a Prince George's County Historic Site, listed on the National Register. According to tradition, British soldiers under General Ross used the Magruder Spring on August 24, 1814 prior to the Battle of Bladensburg. Their use of the spring is a possibility, although it has not been substantiated through accounts of the day. The Spring also functioned in the 1920's as a water source for the newly platted and growing Town of Cheverly. It was featured prominently in original plats in a small park at the center of a traffic circle. Although this street pattern was never developed, the plats indicate the importance the spring held to the town's planners.

Acreage: .7 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Magruder Spring

and/or common Cheverly Spring, Magruder Spring

2. Location

street & number Magruder Spring Park, Cheverly Avenue & Wayne Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Cheverly ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district 5state Maryland ☐ county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Town of Cheverly

street & number 6401 Forest Road telephone no.: 773-8360

city, town Cheverly state and zip code Maryland 20785

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 137

street & number Main Street folio 466

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date July 1981 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. C.A.B. #4010

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Magruder Spring is located east of Cheverly Avenue, and north of Columbia Park Road, in town-owned park land. It is located at the base of the hillside which was built up to support the street. Several mature trees are growing in the bank on the north, west and south sides of the spring, including a tree protruding directly above it. The spring has been surrounded by a cylindrical concrete basin covered by a flat concrete top, at least since 1924 when it is depicted in a photograph. At the present time a drainage channel flows away from the spring to the northeast, toward Beaver Dam Branch. A grassy clearing in the level area on the east side of the spring contains a park bench.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local History

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Magruder Spring is significant for its reoccurring importance in the evolving history of the area of Prince George's County bordering on the northeastern boundary of the District of Columbia. The Spring's significance as a water source made it a local landmark during the 19th and early 20th century.

The Magruder spring served as the primary water source for Mt. Hope,¹ an antebellum tobacco plantation. Established by Fielder Magruder, Jr. (1814-1888) in the latter part of the 1830's, Mt. Hope was located on parts of two tracts, Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range.² The plantation house and adjoining dairy are a Prince George's County Historic Site (P.G. #69-11) and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Spring is located approximately 500 yards south of the plantation house.

When the British, under General Ross, invaded Maryland and marched on Washington in 1814, the Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range tracts were part of the extensive landholdings of Benjamin Stoddert, first U.S. Secretary of the Navy.³ Mt. Hope's stone dairy and a 20 x 20 foot section of the dwelling's cellar date to this period, suggesting the existence of an overseer or tenant farmer's house on the site.⁴ The British approached Bladensburg around mid-day, August 24, 1814, moving north on Addison Road then along the Anacostia River.⁵ According to eyewitness accounts the day was unbearably hot and the road dusty. The troops had to break for an hour around 10:00 in the morning to recover from the heat. They reached the outskirts of Bladensburg around noon.⁶ Tradition has it that the British soldiers drank from the Magruder Spring on their approach to Bladensburg that day. Locating the march route on present-day maps indicates that the British passed approximately one mile west of the spring. According to accounts of the day the troop column had parties ranging greater than a half mile on either side to detect signs of the enemy.⁷ It is possible but unsubstantiated that some troops stopped at the Magruder Spring.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Fielder Magruder, Jr. died childless in 1888. After the death of his widow in 1894 the 207-acre Mt. Hope property was left to her nephew, George Beall Sheriff.⁸ Sheriff's heirs sold 194 acres to Robert Marshall, an Ohio land developer, and his Washington Suburban Realty Company in 1918.⁹ Marshall began the development of a garden suburb on the old Mt. Hope property. The plat of Section 1 of Cheverly, filed March 3, 1919, shows the Magruder Spring in a small park at the center of a traffic circle. The Magruder Spring served as the major source of water for the Cheverly Community until the establishment of water service by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in 1925.¹⁰ Cheverly was then a village of 34 houses. A photograph dating to 1924 depicts a town resident using the spring. In the photograph a flight of concrete stairs leads down to the spring which is contained in a concrete basin.

The street pattern of Section #1 of Cheverly was not developed as depicted on the 1919 plat.¹¹ The Magruder Spring became town property when the town incorporated in 1931. Town Ordinance #2 accepted and established as public parks the parcels along Cheverly Avenue designated as parks on the recorded subdivision plats of the Town. The eight lots surrounding the spring remained undeveloped and were purchased by the Town in 1965 to create a .7 acre park around the Magruder Spring.¹²

Notes

1 28 October 1977 conversation between Raymond Bellamy, Jr. and Lillie Magruder Mansfield, grandniece of Fielder Magruder, regarding use of the spring.

2 Prince George's County Land Records, AB 12:62-65, AB 11:215-16.

3 Prince George's County Land Records, AB 10:394-6; and Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., "The Town of Cheverly, Maryland - Plantation to Planned Community", March 1988, unpublished paper.

4 National Register Nomination for P.G. #69-11, Mt. Hope, Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., March 1978.

5 "Drive-It-Yourself Tour, The 1814 British Invasion Route", a pamphlet published by M-NCPPC, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

6 A Subaltern in America, Comprising the Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Baltimore, Washington, etc. Philadelphia, E.L. Carey and A. Hart, 1833, pg. 38-77.

7 Gleig, G.R., A Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Washington, Baltimore and New Orleans under Generals Ross, Pakenham and Lambert in the Years 1814 and 15 etc. Philadelphia, M. Carey and Sons, 1821, pp. 100, 101, 105 and 117.

8 JBP 1:174, 8 January 1890, will.

9 Land Records, 137:466, 1919. Tax records indicate that Marshall actually was in possession of the property in August 1918.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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10 Interview with Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., December 1988.

11 Plat #RNR 2:38

12 Land Records, 3202:419

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 7 acres

Quadrangle name Washington East F

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date December 1988

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., CAB #4010

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title
Magruder Spring
P.G. #69-13

137:466 30 January 1919 Deed	George B. Sheriff, Jr. et. al., heirs of George B. Sheriff to Washington Suburban Realty Company. For \$10 grantors convey parts of Columbia, Hudson's Range and Crawford's Adventure, home of the late Fielder Magruder, 193 acres. Part of a tract devised to Sheriff under the will of Ann T.G. Magruder, 24 March 1894, JBP 1:174.
JBP 1:174 8 January 1890 Will	Ann T.G. Magruder desires to be buried beside husband, Fielder Magruder. To nephew George Beall Sheriff the tract willed to her by husband, on which he lived, 207 acres.
AB 12:62-65 22 November 1838 Indenture	Howerton Cross to Fielder Magruder. For \$3,900 grantor conveys Mitchell's Adventure, 75 acres. Also a part of Henderson's Range, 13 acres. Begins at fourth line of Fielder Magruder's part of Crawford's Adventure, south of road to Bladensburg.
AB 11:240 21 July 1837 Indenture	Henry and Lavinia Mitchell to Howerton Cross. For \$2,000 grantors convey Mitchell's Adventure, 129½ acres, begins on line of Hudson's Range.
AB 11:217-218 28 June 1837 Indenture	Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$269.50 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 13 acres.
AB 11:215-216 28 June 1837 Indenture	Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$421.25 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 21 acres.
AB 10:402-403 10 August 1836 Indenture	Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$300 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 21 acres.
AB 10:400-402 10 August 1836 Indenture	Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$700 grantors convey Crawford's Adventure, 13 acres.
AB 10:394-6 12 July 1836 Indenture	Richard T. Lowndes to Joseph Kent, land of Benjamin Stoddert of George Town, part of three tracts, Columbia, Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range, 190 acres.

SECTION ONE

CHEVERLY.

2/38

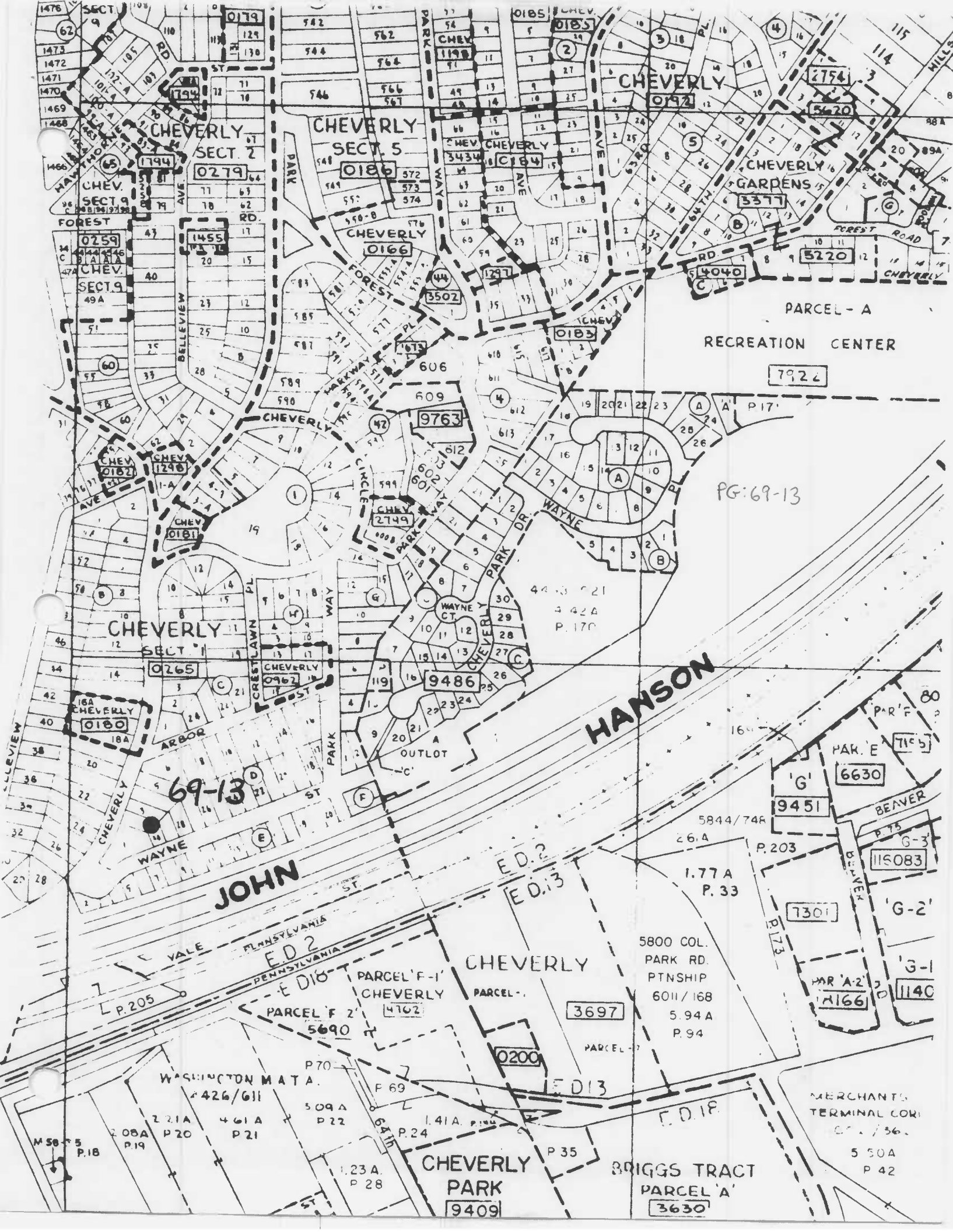
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SUBDIVISION IS THAT WHICH WAS
ACQUIRED BY THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN RAILWAY CO. IN 1911
FROM GEORGE C. BENTLEY, JR. AND WAS LATER CONVEYED TO THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN 1919, AND RECORDED PER 80,100, 101,118, 101,119, 101,120,
ONE OF THE LAND RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
THIS SUBDIVISION CONSISTS OF THIRTY-THREE (33) LOTS,
EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE LOTS WHICH ARE RESERVED FOR THE
USE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE LOTS WHICH ARE
NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE LOTS WHICH ARE RESERVED FOR THE
USE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE LOTS WHICH ARE
NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
MARCH 3, 1919.

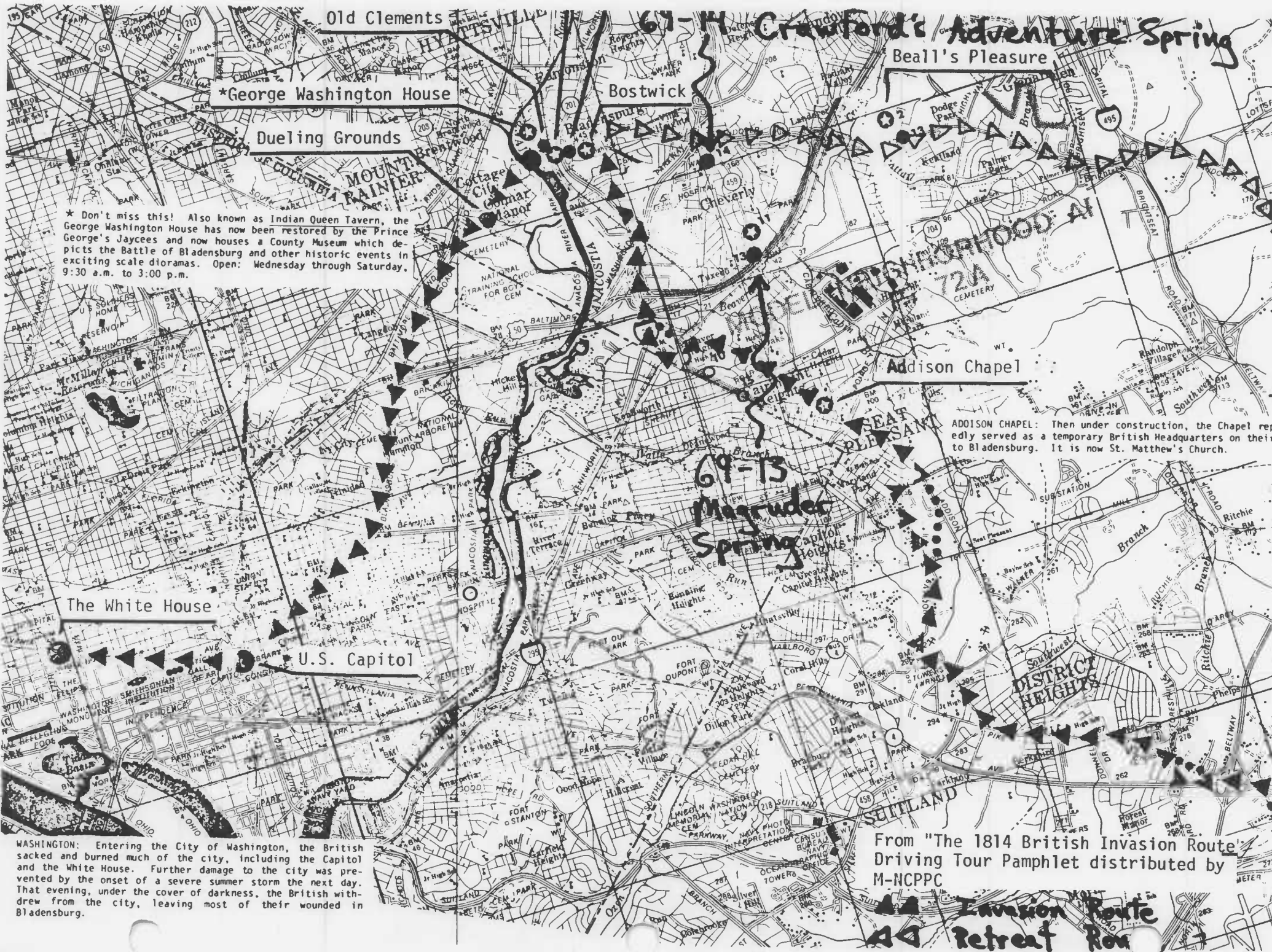


EDWARD L. LATIMER,
COUNTY SURVEYOR,
HYATTSVILLE, MD.

PG. 69-13
Magruder Spring

2-53-1





★ Don't miss this! Also known as Indian Queen Tavern, the George Washington House has now been restored by the Prince George's Jaycees and now houses a County Museum which depicts the Battle of Bladensburg and other historic events in exciting scale dioramas. Open: Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDISON CHAPEL: Then under construction, the Chapel reportedly served as a temporary British Headquarters on their to Bladensburg. It is now St. Matthew's Church.

WASHINGTON: Entering the City of Washington, the British sacked and burned much of the city, including the Capitol and the White House. Further damage to the city was prevented by the onset of a severe summer storm the next day. That evening, under the cover of darkness, the British withdrew from the city, leaving most of their wounded in Bladensburg.

From "The 1814 British Invasion Route Driving Tour Pamphlet distributed by M-NCPPC

69-14 Invasion Route
69-13 Retreat Route



PG # 69-13

Magruder Spring

Prince George's Co. MD

Marina King

Nov. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Cheverly